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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method for manufacturing a drum assembly for an internal drum-type imaging apparatus, and a drum assembly produced using the method. The drum assembly defines an imaging surface which is at least semi-cylindrical. A drum skin defines an imaging surface, and is releasably wrapped around a cylindrical mandrel, which has an axis. The mandrel and wrapped drum skin have a first radius. A drum includes more than one drum portion, and is attached to the drum skin over an at least semi-cylindrical interface. The drum has a radius slightly greater than the first radius, and the drum and attached drum skin cooperate to define a vacuum chamber. A fluid bearing is generated between the drum skin and the mandrel, preferably by pressurizing the vacuum chamber, in order to separate the drum skin from the mandrel. The drum and attached drum skin are then moved relative to the mandrel and in a direction parallel to the axis to remove the drum assembly from the mandrel. The drum and drum skin provide an imaging surface that is greater than semi-cylindrical.